

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

November 1993
Volume 2, Number 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The meeting at which I was elected to the Executive Committee Secretary-Treasurer was the same one at which the membership approved the Chapter plan for implementing the AFS Long Range Plan in Southern New England. The plan recommended that the Executive Committee establish the following committees: Program Development, Environmental Affairs, Education, Publicity and Professionalism. During the past two years, the Executive Committee established these committees with some modifications. The Publicity Committee was to have promoted the Chapter activities; this is being excellently done by Chapter newsletter editor, Ron Essig. Early in the implementation of the Long Range Plan, it became clear that the Professionalism Committee should focus on promoting and enhancing the professionalism of fisheries scientists. As a result the Executive Committee decided that a separate Membership Committee should be established to recruit and retain members to AFS and the Chapter. This committee had not been established before I ascended to President. The Executive Committee asked the committee chairs to serve on a Board of Directors to assist in conducting Chapter activities and to provide "corporate memory." Both the Board and the Committees now provide the Chapter with considerable depth in leadership, a factor that will enhance the function and stability of the Chapter. Seems like there's not much left to do, but follow the plan. However, the plan was ambitious, and following it will be no simple task. What follows are the activities I hope to accomplish during my

term as President.

First, I reappointed those Committee Chairs who worked with the Board last year and were willing to continue: Program Development - Eleanor Mariani, Environmental Affairs - Rick Jacobson, Education - Chuck Phillips, and Professionalism - Chris Gauthier. Ron Essig has agreed to continue as newsletter editor. At the last Chapter meeting Eileen Sadasiv volunteered to participate and I have asked her to serve on the Board, representing the Membership Committee. These folks, along with Member-at-Large Brian Kelly, Secretary Treasurer Martha Mather, President-Elect Dan Hayes and I will comprise the Chapter Board of Directors for the 1993-1994 term. Please contact any of us with questions, comments or suggestions. Our addresses and telephone numbers appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

Second, I expect to establish the Membership Committee as an active, productive committee to recruit and retain members to AFS and the Chapter. Several years ago Eric Smith established an ad hoc committee to investigate how the Chapter might encourage more individuals, who work with fish and fisheries, to become members of AFS and the Chapter. This committee should pick up where that effort left off, but Eileen can't do it alone. So I am actively looking for some Chapter members to help.

Third, I believe the Chapter By-Laws need to be reviewed and modified to accommodate not only organizational structure changes, but also the collection of Chapter dues. The Board of Directors has reviewed the current By-Laws

and proposed several modifications. I expect to have a draft version for the Chapter membership to review at the December 1993 meeting. After it is reviewed by the Parent Society (for consistency with other Society documents), I hope the Chapter membership will vote on the amended By-Laws at the June 1994 business meeting.

Fourth, I expect to provide the leadership and support necessary for the Program Development, Environmental Affairs, Education and Professionalism Committees to complete the objectives they have established to further the Chapter's implementation of the AFS Long Range Plan. Also in 1993-1994, I expect to organize and conduct two successful technical meetings as well as begin planning for meetings through June 1995.

So, it seems there is quite a bit to do. I look forward to working with all Chapter members to accomplish these activities.

- Linda Bireley

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ANNUAL SNEC BUSINESS MEETING

The annual business meeting of the Southern New England Chapter was held on June 10, 1993 on the campus of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA. Approximately 75 SNEC members attended the meeting and technical sessions on a diversity of freshwater and marine fisheries topics. Minutes from the business meeting were prepared by then Secretary-Treasurer Dan Hayes and are included later in this newsletter. Due to the importance of the advocacy issue, individual member comments are presented instead of a summary.



President Linda Bireley addresses Chapter at December 1992 meeting.

SNEC DECEMBER MEETING FAST APPROACHING

The next meeting of the Southern New England Chapter will be on December 8, 1993 at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, CT. The tentative agenda includes a mini-theme session on habitat suitability indices (HSI) and habitat evaluation procedures (HEP). To wrap up the technical session, a mini-workshop on sampling statistics is planned. The first call for papers has gone out and you should be receiving the registration packet shortly. Contact: Dan Hayes, NMFS, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543, (508) 548-5123.

SNEC ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The Committee met on October 5, 1993 in Narragansett, RI to review progress on the Committee's Action Plan and several projects. Jim Hughes is summarizing responses to a summer 1993 mail poll of SNEC member's environmental concerns. Penny Howell is coordinating with several committee members from Massachusetts and Rhode Island to develop an inventory of aquatic resource conservation organizations. They reported good progress on this project. Jack Pearce and several committee members will develop a strategy for providing environmental education

outreach, communication, and guidance on resource management options. This is a principal Committee objective.

Members identified habitat issues as an important component of most aquatic and marine resource management plans. It was noted, however, that habitat issues tended to receive low priority (i.e., cursory attention or last section) in many plans. The Committee believes that habitat issues should be brought to the forefront of management plans, and become an integral part of natural resources studies. Therefore, the Committee recommended that natural resource professionals and educators work to increase awareness and understanding of these issues.

New Committee members are Jon Brodziak, Steve Correia, Vin Malkoski, Brian Murphy, Cornell Rosiu and Paul Spencer.

- Gordon

Waring

SNEC PROFESSIONALISM COMMITTEE

The SNEC Professionalism Committee is focusing on the issue of Professional Certification of AFS members. Since many members are not aware of the requirements for AFS Professional Certification, the Committee provided certification information at the last Chapter meeting. Many AFS members took copies of the information and expressed interest in obtaining certification. The Committee will continue to provide certification information at upcoming Chapter meetings.

Another goal of the Professionalism Committee was to have the Chapter fund the cost of an Associate Certification for graduate students. At the last SNEC business meeting a motion was passed to fund the cost of application for Associate Certification for up to four graduate students per year on a first-come first-serve

basis. The stipulations for the award include that the student must be an AFS member attending graduate school in the Southern New England area and the award will be presented after the student makes a presentation at a Chapter meeting.

Two student papers were presented at the last Chapter meeting. Five SNEC AFS members evaluated these papers. Any student papers presented in December 1993 will also be evaluated and the \$100 award for best student paper will be presented at the Chapter's business meeting.

- Chris Gauthier

BLACK BASS SYMPOSIUM A SUCCESS

The Northeastern Division, AFS held a warmwater workshop entitled "Managing Black Bass in Northern Waters" on October 5-6, 1993 in Alexandria Bay, NY on the St Lawrence River. Approximately 140 bass researchers from every state within the Division, other states and Canadian provinces, Federal agencies, academia, the private sector, and Bass Anglers Sportsmen's Society attended this important workshop. The keynote speaker, Dr. Richard Anderson, advocated the use of proportional stock density and relative weight along with other population assessment measures for northern populations. Sessions on management and research included many papers by SNEC members. The workshop ended with a facilitated panel discussion and question and answer session that emphasized future directions for black bass research and management. Consensus was reached that a black bass management technical committee, likely organized through the Northeastern Division AFS, was desirable to implement strategies developed from the workshop.

- Ron Essig

MEMBER NEWS/MIGRATIONS

Clarence Tarzwell , aquatic biologist and ex-professor at the University of Rhode Island, passed away on May 2, 1993 at the age of 85. His long and distinguished career included positions with several federal agencies where he received numerous professional awards and served on several councils and commissions. He authored 125 publications in the fields of aquatic biology, water pollution, water quality criteria and standards, toxicity studies, pesticides, malaria control, and rodent ectoparasite and typhus control. He was a member of AFS since 1930.

Jack Pearce , Deputy Director of the NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Dr. Pearce is being honored for his contributions to the development of policy for the management of living marine resources and their habitats.

John Boreman was promoted to full Professor at the University of Massachusetts. Dr. Boreman has been Director of the NOAA/UMASS Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program since its establishment in 1989. As part of the cooperative arrangement, he has been teaching classes at the Amherst campus.

Rick Bennett recently assumed the position of Deputy Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5, in Hadley, MA. Rick was formerly with the Service's Division of Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance in Washington, DC.

Also with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, **Steve Rideout** , has accepted the position of Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries, Region 7, in Anchorage, AK. He is expecting to depart the western Massachusetts area in Mid-November.

New regular AFS members in the SNEC area since publication of the last newsletter (February - September 1993) are:

Kenneth L. Bergstrom - Sunderland, MA
H. Arnold Carr - Monument Beach, MA
Laura A. Carter - Wellesley, MA
Patricia M. Clay - Woods Hole, MA
Cori M. Collins - Milford, CT
Steven W. Dolat - Waterford, CT
Nancy J. Haley - Beverly, MA
Alex Hoar - Amherst, MA
Howard N. Krum - Boston, MA
Kathy Lang - Woods Hole, MA
Najih Lazar - Charlestown, RI
William Macy - Kingston, RI
John Reddington - Wilton, CT
Eric Thunberg - Falmouth, MA

New student members during the same time period are:

Gene Abbott - Littleton, MA
Alfred A. Basile - Ellington, CT
Pei Chang - Kingston, RI
Amy L. Derosier - Northboro, MA
Christopher Gagnon - Bristol, RI
Nathan Henderson - Westhampton, MA
Wesley Hinkle - Bristol, CT
Jarrod T. Kosa - East Brookfield, MA
Keith E. Matiskella - Wellingford, CT
Harry Milliken - Kingston, RI
Dana Morse - Kingston, RI
Gary Nelson - Amherst, MA
Kirk Shadle - Kingston, RI
Eric William - Kingston, RI
Kim Zuckerman - E. Canaan, CT

ULTRASONIC TAGGING OF WINTER FLOUNDER

After years of speculation, scientists may finally discover where the winter flounder of New Haven Harbor, CT, spawn. In a study, planned for this winter, scientists will fit egg-bearing female flounder with ultrasonic transmitters in hopes of following them to their spawning areas in the harbor. By examining the fertilized eggs

collected at these areas, they hope to characterize the quality of spawning habitat in the area. In the same study, scientists will evaluate the health, growth rates, survival, and habitat of very young winter flounder that use the harbor as a nursery area before they move offshore as juvenile fish.

Knowing where fish spawn and their young develop is important to those making decisions about disposal of industrial and domestic waste and waterfront development in the Quinnipiac River and New Haven Harbor watershed. It is also a first step in protecting and restoring habitats critical to the health and reproduction of fish. The project is jointly supported by the New Haven Foundation's Quinnipiac River Fund and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Winter flounder have been studied as indicators of water quality in areas where they come inshore to spawn. However, these studies have been on mature fish. According to the chief investigators for the project, Jose Pereira and Ronald Goldberg, NMFS fishery biologists, the effects of contaminants on adult fish in New Haven Harbor have been well studied, but effects on young fish have not been well documented.

Pereira, Goldberg, and colleagues at the NMFS Milford Laboratory will regularly collect winter flounder less than one-year-old from four sites in New Haven Harbor. The livers of these fish will be tested for contaminants such as mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Scientists will compare these results among the areas, as well as growth rates, fish condition, and pathological anomalies such as finrot, skeletal abnormalities, ulcers, and chromosome damage. These results will reflect the habitat quality experienced by young flounder in the harbor, and scientists will learn more about what young fish require for healthy development.

During this time, the scientists will also test ultrasonic transmitters on mature winter

flounder. Transmitters have been used successfully in tracking other saltwater species, including the summer flounder and European flounders. Once scientists determine the best way to attach the transmitters and track fish fitted with them, they will tag egg-bearing females and follow them to spawning sites. It is suspected that the winter flounder spawn near the mouth of the Quinnipiac River, but there may be other locations as well. At the spawning sites, fertilized eggs will be collected and examined for overall health.

For more information, contact Jose Pereira, NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Milford Laboratory, 212 Rogers Avenue, Milford, CT 06460, (203) 783-4200.

NEW SEA URCHIN FISHERY

During the first three months of 1993, some 75 fishermen from Boston to Rockport, MA began dredging green urchins for the export market, and two processing facilities have opened in Gloucester. Two events contributed to this rapid development: the growth of a mass market for urchin roe in Japan and the perfection of a dredge in Ireland which allows surface vessels, rather than SCUBA divers, to harvest them in quantity. The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries supports minimum size and culling requirements, dredge specifications and a closed season as conservation measures given the speed at which this fishery has developed.

- Excerpted from DMF News,
Second Quarter 1993

MASS BLACK SEA BASS UPDATE

The proposed two-month spawning season ban on black sea bass possession in Massachusetts reported in the last issue of this newsletter was not adopted by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). A number of factors entered into the DMF decision including the lack of equity in other state regulations and the inability to collect

length/age and spawning information with the ban in place. Recognizing that the need for interjurisdictional management was a prerequisite for effective black sea bass management, the Massachusetts Marine Fishery Advisory Commission voted that the DMF (1) expand black sea bass research beginning spring 1993; (2) replace the black sea bass pot fishery annual catch report with a logbook; (3) continue to push for completion of an ASMFC and Mid-Atlantic Council Plan for all states to adopt a 10-inch minimum size or larger; and (4) develop strategies to better control effort of pot fishermen in 1994 and beyond using a 50 percent or more reduction in the pot limit as a beginning.

- Excerpted from DMF News,
Second Quarter 1993

BLUEBACK HERRING SPAWN IN BLACKSTONE RIVER

Juvenile blueback herring have been observed downstream of the Albion Dam in the Blackstone River by fisheries biologists from the RI Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Estuarine Resources during routine summer sampling surveys. "The finding is particularly exciting," says John O'Brien, Deputy Chief of Freshwater Fisheries, "because the Blackstone River has not supported anadromous fish species for more than 200 years." The Division stocked 3000 adult blueback herring in June 1993 immediately downstream of the Albion Dam as part of a long range effort toward restoring anadromous fish to the Blackstone River in anticipation of a year long fish passage feasibility study for the lowermost dams on the river. The study will be done by the US Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the Department of Environmental Management and the National Park Service.

In January, the Division formed the Blackstone River Anadromous Fish Restoration Task Force to address the feasibility of restoring populations of anadromous species to the Blackstone. In

addition to DEM, members of the task force include the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Blackstone River Heritage Corridor Commission, and representatives of local towns and environmental organizations. An initial accomplishment of the Task Force was to identify the need for the upcoming study.

In a related effort, the Division's Aquatic Resources Education Program will be participating with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Massachusetts Audubon in the Blackstone River Watershed Education Project. This program, patterned after the successful Merrimack River Watershed Education Project, involves high school teachers and their students in water quality sampling and computer data collection.

- Excerpted from Briefings,
September 1993

PILGRIM STATION REPORTS

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries reports entitled, "Final Report on Irish Moss (Chondrus crispus) Harvesting along the Plymouth Shoreline and Impact Assessment of Pilgrim Station on the Fishery, 1972-1982" and "Final Report on Haul Seine Survey and Impact Assessment of Pilgrim Station on Shore-zone Fishes, 1981-1991" have been published by Boston Edison Company in a report series entitled Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station Marine Environmental Program.

Irish moss, a commercially valuable red macrophyte (seaweed), has been harvested along the shores of western Cape Cod Bay since the 1800's. Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's thermal discharge is located in the middle of what has been called on of the major commercial beds of C. crispus on the western

Atlantic coast. Surveys of the harvest were undertaken and landings data collected from 1971 to 1982 to assess whether the operation of the Pilgrim Station impacted harvesting of the Irish moss resource in the offsite waters of Cape Cod Bay. Life history aspects of this alga; a description of the fishery, study area, and harvesting procedures; the study methods and materials; and findings/conclusions are reported.

An intensive haul-seine survey was conducted from 1981 through 1991 in the vicinity of Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, documenting the occurrence, distribution, and relative abundance of shore-zone fish species. The impact of power generation on selected species is addressed. The study area and sampling methods are described, the shore-zone fish assemblage of the Plymouth area is documented and abundance trends reported.

Copies of these reports are available by contacting Bob Lawton of the Division at (508) 888-1155.

- Brian Kelly

SOUND GARDENERS TRAINED

To spread the word that individuals can help prevent water pollution, Connecticut's Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program and Cooperative Extension System are training Sound Gardeners. Fifty volunteers for this pilot program, already trained as Master Gardeners, received three days of training on aquatic resources, types of water pollutants, household hazardous wastes, composting, lawn care, gardening practices, and how all of these relate to local water quality and Long Island Sound. The Sound Gardeners also received training on effective public speaking and how to make contacts with community groups. Supplied with reference materials, displays, video tapes, and a slide show, the volunteers are now scheduling presentations to spread the Sound Gardening word. For more

information about the program, contact Heather Crawford at (203) 789-6454.

- Nor'easter, Spring/Summer 1993

ELECTROFISHING INJURIES NETWORK

The AFS, Fisheries Management Section has established an "Electrofishing Injuries Network" to provide a forum for information exchange on the subject of electrofishing-related injuries in fish. The Section newsletter is the anticipated vehicle for contributions by fisheries researchers of information on the extent of injuries in their electrofishing operations. The Chair of the network is Curt Meyer, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept, 528 South Adams Street, Laramie, WY 82070, (307) 745-4046, and the northeast coordinator is Bruce Hollender at (801) 359-5118. Recent information from the network follows.

Rich Valdez with BIO/WEST, Inc., (801) 752-4202, collected 40 roundtail chub with pulsed DC. They x-rayed and filleted all the fish. Only two filleted fish showed hemorrhaging; no injuries were visible on x-rays. No external signs of injury were seen in the nearly 80 fish that were handled in the field.

Lidia Bardygula-Nonn, (312) 508-3282, completed research on injuries and survival in centrarchids electrofished (pulsed DC and AC) from Lake Michigan harbors. She found little sign of detrimental effects (minimal injury and mortality). But small fish were more likely to die as pulse rates increased.

Cindy Mitton, (705) 474-5550, recently completed experiments examining the physiological responses and swimming stamina of rainbow trout treatment groups shocked with pulsed DC and exposed to the air. She found no mortality and no spinal damage in the treatment groups. Shocked fish had lower stamina up to

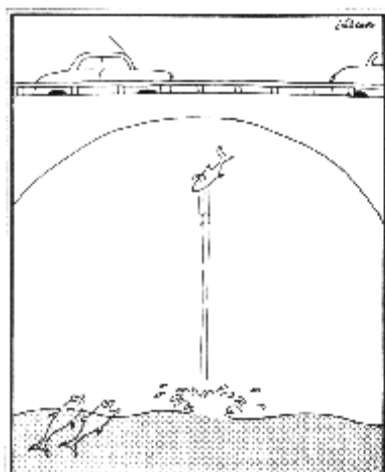
one hour post treatment, and they had increased blood lactate levels and decreased arterial pH values. Fish exposed to the air up to four minutes had decreased stamina up to six hours post treatment.

- Curt Meyer, FMS

Newsletter,

Spring 1993

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"We're too late! ... He jumped"

In December 1992, Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Special Publication No. 117 was released. "Otolith Microstructure Examination and Analysis" was edited by D.K. Stevenson and S.E. Campana and contains seven papers written by experts in the field. It describes in detail the procedures for collecting larval and juvenile fish, otolith removal and preparation, microscopic measurement and interpretation, data analysis, and the validation of deposition rate. The papers also address specific sources of error associated with otolith microstructure studies and the development and application of the otolith increment technique.

The publication is intended to serve as a manual for beginning and experienced researchers. It is up-to-date and well supplied with explanatory figures and photographs. A limited number of

free copies will be made available to libraries and government laboratories in the United States and Canada, but not to regular journal subscribers. Copies may be ordered through the Canadian Communication Publishing Group in Ottawa (613) 956-4600. Please refer to catalog number FS41-31/117E.

- Marine Fish. Section News,

Spring 1993

SOFTWARE AVAILABLE

The AFS Computer Users Section has just renegotiated a new contract with the Missouri Department of Conservation for permission to continue distributing DisBCalc89-FishCalc89, a suite of fishery analysis tools they developed. The original allotment of programs that were acquired under the terms of the original contract have been exhausted. Demand for the programs remains high. The Section, under terms of the new contract, plans to continue to copy and distribute documentation and disks on an as needed basis. If you tried to order a copy and were told that supplies had been depleted, then contact the Software Librarian, Steve Atran, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, Lincoln Center, Suite 331, 5401 West Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609-2486, (813) 228-2815.

- AFCUS Newsletter, Spring 1993

EXCELLENT EDUCATORS WANTED

The American Fisheries Society Excellence in Fisheries Education Award was established in 1988. The award is administered by the AFS Education Section and is presented annually to an individual to recognize excellence in organized teaching and advising in some aspect of fisheries education. Nominees may be involved in extension or continuing education, as well as traditional college and university instruction. The nomination deadline is June 1, 1994. Additional information can be obtained

from Matt Sabo, Chair, Excellence in Fisheries Education Award Committee, Louisiana St Univ, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (504) 388-4560.

CULTURED FISHES SYMPOSIUM

The American Fisheries Society will be sponsoring a symposium on the "Uses and Effects of Cultured Fishes in Aquatic Ecosystems" in Albuquerque, NM on March 12-17, 1994. This symposium is intended to examine the roles of hatcheries and genetics in fisheries management. It will be an interactive symposium with sessions resulting in AFS Section views on the uses and effects of hatchery products. Contact: Del Graff, Symposium Chair, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, 450 Robinson Lane, Bellefonte PA 16823-9616, (814) 359-5154.

VERMONT TO HOST NORTHEAST FISH AND WILDLIFE CONFERENCE

The 50th Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference will be hosted by the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department from May 1-4, 1994 at the Sheraton Hotel in Burlington, VT. The conference theme is "The Public and the Profession: Changing Constituencies, Changing Roles." Contact: Fisheries Program Chair Jon Anderson, (802) 878-1564.

NU INTERN PROGRAM

Northeast Utilities is seeking students to participate in an intern program at its Environmental Lab at the Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Waterford, CT. The student would gain practical field and laboratory experience working under the direction of scientific staff. Internships are available throughout the academic year and during the summer. Different topics are available or can be developed according to the student's needs and availability. A time commitment of 8 to 12 hours per week for an 8 to 10 week period is preferred. For more information contact: Linda

Bireley, Supervisor, Aquatic Assessments, NU Environmental Lab, PO Box 128, Waterford, CT 06385, (203) 444-4235.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Federal Aid Division of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 5 has a vacancy for a GS-11 fishery biologist to assist States in the development, conduct and implementation of Sport Fish Restoration grants, primarily involving freshwater fisheries research and surveys. This position is expected to be readvertised through the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in December 1993. Contact: Ron Essig, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035, (413) 253-8504.

**Southern New England Chapter, American Fisheries Society
1993 Annual Business Meeting Minutes**

President Bill Hyatt called the Annual Business Meeting of the Southern New England Chapter (SNEC) of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) to order at 11:22 a.m. on June 10, 1993. The meeting was held in room 101 of the Campus Center, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

The minutes from the last business meeting (June 10, 1992) were distributed. President Bill Hyatt called for corrections or addition to the minutes. No items were raised and the minutes were approved.

President Bill Hyatt called for committee reports:

Program Committee: Bill Hyatt reported for chair, Eleanor Mariani. The program committee has not met since the 25th Anniversary meeting in December, but the list of special topics developed prior to that was sufficient for the present meeting (and likely several meetings to come).

Environmental Affairs: Rick Jacobson reported that the committee has been actively refining its goals and objectives, focusing on the communication and education aspects of environmental affairs. A list of five action items were developed for the committee to pursue including 1) prepare a directory of SNEC members based on a questionnaire that has been mailed out and distributed at the present meeting 2) develop a list of conservation organizations in the area to inform SNEC members of possible avenues for becoming involved with advocacy groups 3) work with the program committee to develop theme issues focussing on environmental affairs 4) develop a column for the Chapter's newsletter 5) work with the education committee to develop a speakers network

Education: Don Flescher reported for committee chairman Chuck Phillips. Don reported that the education committee has met three times since December. The committee's work has centered on developing ideas to expand the opportunities for Chapter members to become involved with education (for example, the speakers network mentioned above). Also, the committee has been actively involved with an education program (Taking Stock of Our Fisheries) under development by Janis Burton of the Manomet Bird Observatory. Don indicated that there are a number of fisheries and aquatic science curricula available (such as Living in Water and Project Wild) and that the committee won't be developing its own curriculum. Rather, the committee will work with other groups to expand the use of existing curricula and promote SNEC member's involvement. Don pointed out that a number of other avenues of involvement exist, including judging science fairs, the Massachusetts Marine Educators and the Merrimack River Watershed Project.

Professionalism: Christine Gauthier reported that the committee has met once since December, focussing on the issue of professional certification. Since many people are not aware of the requirements for certification, the committee will focus on providing information on certification at meetings, and will provide assistance to those seeking certification. Chris indicated that anyone interested in certification could pick up copies of the application material at the meeting, but that when applying, they need to use an original form available from the AFS office in Bethesda.

The treasurer's report was distributed. Dan Hayes indicated that there is \$4,102.97 in the treasury, for a net gain of \$346.64 from June 1992. Major expenses included the 25th Anniversary meeting and the newsletter. The primary sources of income were Chapter dues and the June 1992 meeting. Bill Hyatt called for comments on the treasurer's report. No comments were received, and the report was approved.

Dan Hayes announced that Martha Mather won the election for Secretary-Treasurer.

President Bill Hyatt introduced AFS Northeastern Division President, Ken Beal. Ken reported that Bill Hyatt was elected Division President-Elect, Henry Boone Secretary Treasurer, and Bob Carline the Division representative to the AFS nominating committee. Carolyn Griswold will take office as Division President in September. At the meeting, Alan Peterson received the Dwight Webster Award, and Gordon Twombly received the Presidential award. Ken reported that the Northeastern Division was initiating a move to invite the Virginia and Washington D.C. chapters to move from the Southeastern Division to the Northeastern Division. Ken met with the Southeastern Division President who indicated that he also felt this would be in the best interest of the professionals from those areas. Ken reminded the membership that the Division will be sponsoring a symposium on black bass October 4-6, 1993. Currently, the Division has scheduled a coldwater symposium (chaired by Marty Marsinko) for the summer of 1995, and a special symposium, possibly on downstream fish passage and chaired by John O'Leary, for sometime in 1996. Ken indicated that he is trying to arrange a deep-sea

fishing trip out of Gloucester, MA, to add to the prizes for the AFS raffle. He moved that the Chapter donate \$50.00 toward this. This motion was approved. In other Division news, Carolyn Griswold added that the Division is holding a contest with a \$100 prize for a new logo. If interested, please contact her.

President Bill Hyatt reported that Paul Wingate had asked him to prioritize the items on a list of legislative actions (e.g., reauthorization of the Magnuson Act) coming up in the near future. Bill distributed a copy of this list for the membership to rank in importance and return to him. Bill will convey the results of this poll to Paul Wingate in response to his request.

President Bill Hyatt reported that CNN had approached AFS for assistance in preparing a documentary on fisheries problems. A meeting was held May 11 in Chicago to discuss the content of the program. Bill Hyatt had asked Eric Smith to attend this meeting to represent the Chapter, but due to prior commitments, Eric could not attend. In lieu of attending the meeting, Eric sent a letter with some ideas for the program. Following the meeting, Eric received a draft of possible topics. A summary of the topics that will likely be included in this documentary with some examples are:

1. Habitat and Pollution -- watershed and airshed concepts, impact of agriculture on fisheries, a case study of the Everglades, sedimentation and fisheries.
2. Overfishing -- this will probably be presented as a generic problem, with case studies of New England groundfish, red drum, sardine, sea urchin, coastal Louisiana. The problems of common property resources will likely be discussed here. Success stories of controlling overfishing (e.g., striped bass) will also be presented.
3. Bycatch and Discards -- this section will probably contain some of the information on bycatch and discarding in a recent conference in Oregon. Also, the problems of "ghost-fishing" by lost and discarded nets, marine mammal and sea turtle interactions with harvesting activities, and conservation engineering will be covered.
4. Management Problems -- this topic will probably be covered by a group of case studies.

Bill indicated that CNN is moving quickly on producing this program, and that to his knowledge it will air during September or October.

President Bill Hyatt reported that at the last Board of Directors meeting, the Board decided to donate \$120 to cover lodging costs for a student at the Northeastern Division meeting. Bill asked the membership if they would like the Chapter to continue support of student participation in Division meetings. The membership raised several points of clarification, in particular what criteria are used to select recipients of this stipend. Carolyn Griswold indicated that at present, the money is given directly to the Northeastern Division student unit who then award the funds. The general discussion indicated that this donation should be continued, but that the Chapter members would like some guidelines on who receives this money. Rick Jacobson moved that the Chapter provide two (2) nights lodging for a student at the Northeastern Division meeting, with the stipulation that the recipient be a member of AFS, and that the Chapter re-evaluate this donation on an annual basis. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 11:58 a.m., and reconvened 1:08 p.m.

President Bill Hyatt moved that the Chapter fund the cost of Associate Certification for graduate students in the Chapter who agree to present a paper at a Chapter meeting. The reasons for this motion were 1) to encourage students to become active in the Chapter 2) promote the certification program and encourage students to seek certification and 3) to benefit students by making them more aware of the requirements for certification by AFS. The ensuing discussion focussed on the issues of how many students to fund, what criteria to choose students, and the timing of the students' presentations (i.e., before or after receiving the award). After the discussion, the original motion was withdrawn to allow for a clarified and modified motion to be set forth. Dan Hayes moved that the Chapter fund the cost of application for Associate Certification for up to four (4) graduate students per year on a first-come first-served basis. The stipulations for the award include that the student must be an AFS member, he or she must attend graduate school in the Southern New England area, and that the award will be presented after the student makes a presentation at a Chapter meeting. The motion passed.

President Bill Hyatt brought up the point that the Board of Directors had reduced the cost of student registration for this meeting to \$10.00 in response to members' concerns that the \$16.00 fee previously charged was too high. Linda Bireley moved that the cost be maintained at \$10.00 to promote student participation in Chapter meetings. The motion was approved.

Carolyn Griswold suggested that the Chapter evaluate the need for a membership committee. Carolyn indicated that in the Northeastern

Division and in several chapters that the president-elect is chair of the membership committee. Bill Hyatt indicated that unless there was opposition, the Board of Directors would work out the details of forming a membership committee.

President Bill Hyatt initiated a discussion of the members' views on the role the Chapter should play in fisheries activism and advocacy. Bill pointed out that some of the AFS leadership at the national level has taken a more favorable position towards advocacy than in the past. In regards to Chapter activities, Bill wanted to begin an internal discussion to determine if the membership felt it was necessary or appropriate for the Environmental Affairs Committee to become involved with advocacy issues. At this point in time, President Hyatt did not want to entertain any motions regarding advocacy, but wanted a dialogue between members on this issue. A summary of each member's comments are as follows:

Eric Smith: I am very concerned that if we become involved with advocacy that we are diplomatic and patient in our approach. One of the critical issues is how to develop a consensus within the Chapter. For some issues, a consensus will be easily reached, but we need some thought as to how (or if) to present a position statement on more difficult issues. In addition to the method of reaching a consensus, we must take great care in how we present our views. We should not let our frustration with issues or the process lead us to become strident in our presentations, otherwise our credibility will suffer.

Bill Hyatt: I have purposefully not defined advocacy or activism, and encourage each speaker to clarify what their definitions are. I also point out that the AFS procedural handbook gives the chapters pretty free reign regarding the activities that the chapter can become involved in.

Carolyn Griswold: I largely agree with Eric Smith. I feel that we should focus on position or information papers rather than taking an active role in promoting our position. Maintaining our role of providing information is important in maintaining our professional status, as well as minimizing the potential for conflicts of interest. Another of my concerns is that the Chapter focus on issues of manageable size. We do not have enough people to "take on" big issues such as the currently proposed sewage outfall project.

Ken Beal: The issue of advocacy is very sensitive at the level of the AFS EXCOM. Some members of the EXCOM feel that we should become very active, to the point of lobbying. Others, however, feel that a more moderate approach is more desirable. I point out that in the procedural handbook that generally a position statement should be published in Fisheries by the appropriate subunit with a request for comments. That subunit then considers the comments by the membership and submits the position statement to the EXCOM for approval. In emergencies, however, the Executive Director, has the authority to draft position statements. My fear is that issues that should be handled by the standard procedure are being treated as "emergencies" and as such are not receiving the full review they deserve. I also point out that much of the current push for advocacy is coming from "the top" of the AFS structure.

Linda Bireley: I define advocacy and activism as trying to influence policy and legislation. I feel we need to take great care in any of our activities along these lines. I encourage members to actively pursue their concerns in environmental issues, but feel that the Chapter needs to evaluate on a case-by-case basis if we should become involved with an issue.

Rick Jacobson: The Environmental Affairs Committee has viewed that it is up to the individual to decide the level of advocacy or activism they want to maintain. As such, the Environmental Affairs Committee has taken the approach of communicating to the membership the current issues affecting fisheries and the environment, and providing the membership with information on the different groups whose focus is on environmental advocacy and activism. In the Chapter's long range plan, the Environmental Affairs Committee was originally intended to provide a "voice" for the membership, but the committee has evolved away from that. I ask the membership whether the committee's current mission is appropriate or if it should take a more active role in advocating the Chapter's position?

Jack Pearce: I recently attended a seminar for representatives of federal agencies focussing on policy development. One of the key elements in developing policies is having a clear view of what the agency mission is. Thirty-five years ago, fisheries science was defined on the basis of what people learned at a few major "fisheries" schools. We now view fisheries science as being a much broader discipline. I feel that we need to take a long-range, ecosystem perspective, and comment on the issues in this context as we see them. I am afraid that some of the things needed to be said are lost in our internal discussions and scientific presentations. I see AFS as a spokesagency, but we do run the risk of people not liking what is said. Never-the-less, reasonable management and good science will profit from thoughtful comment and criticism.

Cheryl Ryder: I have a strong interest in advocacy. I think it is important for the Chapter to provide information through the newsletter or other means to encourage individual advocacy. I feel that often we don't participate in advocating an issue or position because we aren't aware of the issue or we don't feel confident of the facts concerning the issue. As such, the Chapter can play an important role in helping

us to become individually active.

Steven Correia: In the past, I chose not to join AFS because I felt the society was placing too much emphasis on advocacy. I feel that a major problem is when advocacy by the society is driven from the top-down and not driven by a grass-roots bottom-up process.

Chris Powell: Having worked with numerous conservation groups, I feel the only way to get things done is to have people working from within. The "opposition" has lots of money and "experts". We can help many of the environmental advocacy groups by providing them with experience and expertise. Some degree of activism is the only way to accomplish our conservation goals.

Jon Brodziak: In my position with a federal agency, I see data that is very informative on the status of many fisheries. Unfortunately, I am not allowed to comment publicly on this information due to agency restrictions. I feel that the Chapter provides an important outlet for scientists like me to comment on conservation issues, and I encourage the Chapter to begin dialogues to develop a consensus on the important issues facing us.

Cornell Rosiu: I feel that we should get away from the view that industry is "the opposition". Not all issues are clear cut; I feel this discussion is important since we need to break away from the bounds that are traditionally placed on us. In particular, we should be aware of other sciences and focus on an interdisciplinary approach. I feel that we are moving in the right direction through discussions such as this.

Chris Powell: I didn't want to imply that industry is "bad", but I need to point out that many of the industrial PACs have a lot of money to promote their position, and often can find experts to support that position. We need to be advocates for the environment, but we also need to maintain our status as professionals.

Tim Barry: I am curious how other societies have dealt with the advocacy issue. It seems that many societies have branches that are specifically geared for advocacy. I think we need to look more closely at the Fisheries Action Network.

Cheryl Ryder: I talked with Bob Carline about the possibility of being an intern with AFS for doing advocacy type of work. As far as I know, the Wildlife Society and Society of American Foresters have such programs. In my inquiries in AFS, I was basically told that if I could fund myself, they would consider the idea of an internship.

Bill Overholtz: I feel that communication is essential in having a positive impact on environmental issues. I feel that as scientists we have the responsibility to get the word out to the public and to our legislators. The "opposition" has lots of money and power, and it is time for us as scientists to go beyond making presentations only at scientific meetings or "preaching to the choir", but to take the responsibility of communicating the facts to the public. I have been involved with a number of conservation organizations, and it is amazing how much can be accomplished if you are willing to voice your opinions.

Rebecca Jones: I have been involved with organizations such as "Save the Bay" and feel that as scientists we can help advocacy groups a great deal by providing them with information and experience.

Bill Hyatt: I view advocacy and activism as separate processes. I see activism as providing environmental education and feel that this is a very appropriate goal to pursue. I see advocacy as the attempt to actively affect policy and legislation. I feel our Chapter does not currently have the resources to adequately become involved as an advocacy group. I don't mean to imply that we should steer away from taking on an advocacy role in the future, but I question our present ability to properly address these issues.

In old business, Ken Beal indicated that the Division's annual report was available at the meeting. Ken also informed the Chapter that the Fisheries History Section was producing an AFS calendar and asked members to contact him if they had old fisheries photos, dates of historical interest, or had a meeting they wanted announced on the calendar.

President Bill Hyatt called for additional new business. No items were raised.

In his parting remarks, President Hyatt thanked the Chapter for the privilege of serving. Further, he encouraged all members to get involved in the Chapter, particularly now that the committees have become more fully developed.

Bill Hyatt installed Linda Bireley as the new President, and Linda presented Bill with the Past President's Certificate. In the interest of time, new President Linda Bireley did not make any opening remarks.

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Hayes, Secretary

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